**E-Authentication Initiative Launches the *E-Authentication Federation***

The E-Authentication Initiative has successfully launched the E-Authentication Federation, a public-private partnership that will enable citizens, businesses and government employees to access online government services using log-in IDs issued by trusted third-parties, both within and outside the government.  As this ground-breaking collaboration between government and industry continues to mature, it will further improve government's ability to deliver services to the American public and save taxpayer dollars.

As of September 7, 2006, 17 Federal agencies have joined the E-Authentication Federation as Relying Party members, signaling their intent to make select systems available through the use of trusted third party log-in IDs.  Of the 17 agencies that have joined the Federation, 14 have already launched E-Authentication-enabled online services.

The Federation also includes six Credential Service Provider members, which issue, manage and verify the login IDs upon which the online services rely to admit end users to their sites. Federation member Credential Service Providers consist of both government agencies and commercial entities, including financial services companies.  Financial services companies are able to participate in the Federation under the authority of the Department of Treasury, which is able to authorize certain companies as designated financial agents (DFA) of the government.

The E-Authentication Federation is growing rapidly, and over the course of the next year, the E-Authentication Initiative expects to add several high-volume online services and Credential Service Providers that will greatly increase E-Authentication's value to Federal agencies and the American public.

Click here to view the E-Authentication Federation Membership List.